GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1594
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently formulated a five point agenda for strengthening economic cooperation amongst Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is expected to push up GDP growth rate and reduce unemployment in these countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

a)& b) The third ministerial meeting of BIMST-EC, an Association of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand, was held in New Delhi in July 2000.The meeting discussed cooperation in six sectors, namely, trade and investment, technology, transport and communications, energy, tourism and fisheries.

c) Changes in GDP growth rate and reduction in unemployment are dependant on a complex interplay of different economic factors of which regional cooperation, though important, is only one and hence its impact cannot be computed to any degree of exactitude. However, cooperation contemplated under BIMST-EC is expected to bring economic, commercial and technological benefits to its member countries.